



**TESTIMONY**  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
to the  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
January 31, 2011

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

**CCM supports Raised Bill 829 "*An Act Establishing and Open Space Registry*".**

This bill would establish a registry of real property in Connecticut that has been preserved as open space or agricultural lands. The Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture would be primarily responsible for establishing and maintaining the registry, with input and assistance from local governments and other interested parties.

Appropriate land use and preservation have long been a priority for Connecticut - this registry would be a tremendous tool for statewide and local planning and decision making as it pertains to future land use or preservation and such funds that would support the activities. Absent such a tool, the information that such decisions are made off of are based on a patchwork of data gathered from various sources.

CCM urges the committee to support this bill and favorably report it.

## ## ##

If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email [kweaver@ccm-ct.org](mailto:kweaver@ccm-ct.org) or via phone (203) 710-9525.